

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06902 160732Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1825

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6902

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CGEN, GE, IT, GW, FR, UK, US

SUBJ: ITALO-GDR CONSULAR RELATIONS

1. DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, BENEDETTO SANTARELLI, DCM, ITALIAN EMBASSY, SAID THAT TWO PROBLEMS HAD EMERGED FROM THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED "SECOND-ROUND" OF CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR. THESE WERE A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF IMMUNITIES FOR CONSULAR STAFF. THE FIRST WAS BY FAR THE MOST TROUBLESOME. SANTARELLI SAID THAT THE GDR NEGOTIATORS HAD BEEN TOLD OUTRIGHT THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD NOT GIVE IN ON NATIONALITY BECAUSE THEIR ALLIES WERE NOT YIELDING ON THIS MATTER. WHEN EMBOFF CONFIRMED ONCE AGAIN THE US POSITION NOT TO ACCEPT A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, SANTARELLI SAID, "GOOD", AND ADDED THAT THE ITALIANS DID NOT WANT TO LET DOWN THE US, UK, AND FRANCE, WHICH HAD SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN GERMANY AND BERLIN.

2. SANTARELLI SAID THAT IN 1975 THE ITALIANS HAD HAD SUCCESS

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06902 160732Z

IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF ONLY FOUR HUMANITARIAN CASES. HOWEVER,

HE ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT COME ABOUT THROUGH ANY ACTION ON THE PART THE EMBASSY HERE. RATHER, THE RELEASES HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY THE PCI. (ALTHOUGH SANTARELLI DID NOT SAY SO, HE HINTED THAT THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WAS PARTY-TO-PARTY.) THE EMBASSY HAD LEARNED OF THE RELEASE AFTER THE FACT FROM THE ITALIAN PRESS. ONE OF THE CASES INVOLVED THE GDR FIANCEE OF A WELL-KNOWN ITALIAN SOCCER PLAYER.

3. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER BRIEFING THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON US-GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FIRMNESS OF OUR POSITION ON NATIONALITY.GROVE

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